

In City Life —

CityLife observes part of Newark's Renaissance, Verse 4 Verse
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Metro
Edition

Vol. 17, No. 20

Be prepared when stopped by police

By Gilda Rogers
Staff Writer

PASSAIC—In light of some of today's police officers, who have soiled the institution of law enforcement, "to protect and serve," it is no wonder that in these days and times what took place at Martin Luther King School No. 6 in Passaic, on Feb. 6, has proven to be a necessity.

Sergeant Delacy Davis, a 14-year officer with the East Orange Police Department and president of Black Cops Against Brutality conducted a workshop seminar, that just may save the lives of many whom were in the room.

With members of BKAP acting out believable scenarios, from drunk driving to provoked behavior, Davis, who didn't sugar coat a thing, rather preferring to "keep it real," tacitly connected with the crowd and went over the dos and don'ts of what to do when stopped by a police officer, before drilling the crowd on the basics.

1. If you have power windows power both your front and rear windows down, especially if windows are tinted (which is against the law) so the officer can see inside the car.

2. Present license, registration and insurance card. Passaic reiterated not one or two will do all three — license, registration and insurance.

3. Say yes sir/mam or no sir/mam when responding to questions an officer may ask. He sternly expressed that when stopped you do not want to provoke a situation. And he further expressed that young brothers have a need to prove their manhood. He then cited "a deadman tale no tales."

4. A woman can be patted down by a male police officer, if thought to be concealing a weapon, said Davis dispelling the myth that women cannot be frisked by male police officers. He then demonstrated the procedure by using the back of his hands.

5. Admonishing all teenagers in attendance to think before jumping in a car with a friend, Davis said "If Hassan is driving a car and he doesn't have a job and he's driving a \$70,000 car and it's not his mother's or father's, — c'mon assume the car is stolen."

6. Don't ask an offensive police officer for his badge number, Davis instructed that's a way not to get it. Rather, it's there in full view commit it to memory, or be able to give a good description of the police officer and any characteristics that would be relevant in identifying him/her — scars, accent, etc.

"We want to see our young people grow up to become doctors and singers," said Davis, who paid homage to Shirlene member and Passaic native Beverly Lee, who'd recently passed away.

Davis' program is designed to teach "growing adults" how to resolve issues amicably. His point centered on other methods to deal with offensive police officers, rather than becoming confrontational with them.

"There is no need to debate on the street," Davis said. "How in the world are you going to win against the biggest gang in the country."

Telling the audience, that police officers are their public servants, Davis advised them to file complaints against officers and to follow them up.

"I don't think you're a racist cop because you're white," said Davis. "You're not my friend because you're a black cop. BKAP hates brutal police, homophobic police, and racist police. We're not anti-police. I'm a police officer."



In Artz —

D'Angelo's music proves to be the second coming of soul
Page B4



In Sports —

Eddie Butcher talks about his World Champion kick boxing title
Page B8



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CITY NEWS

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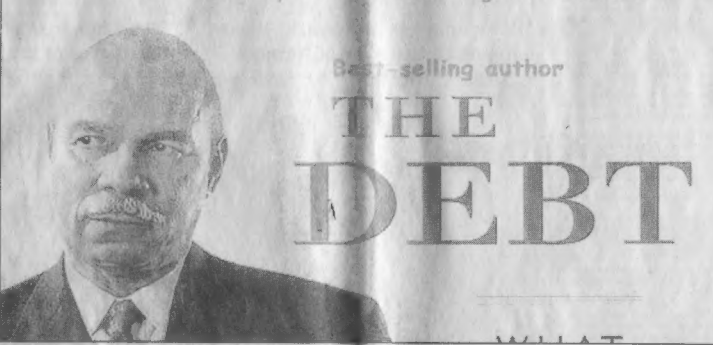
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Reparations for Black America

RANDALL ROBINSON
Internationally known Human Rights Advocate



Randall Robinson, activist and author of a new book "The Debt," which centers on the topic of reparations.

By Gilda Rogers
Staff Writer

Randall Robinson, who is best known for his activism and as founder of TransAfrica, the first organization devoted solely to raising awareness of African and Caribbean peoples, will bring his message on reparations to Newark on Feb. 26.

The best-selling author of the book "The Debt, What America Owes to Blacks," will be the featured speaker at the second Annual Black Heritage Day Celebration at George Washington Carver School from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Reparations, which is not only a human rights issue has recently evolved into a political one also. Representative John Conyers (D-Mich) has introduced a bill H.R. 40 every year since 1988 to Congress to explore and appoint a commission to study this debt owed to black Americans. To this date a commission has yet to be appointed.

However, reparations have been paid to Japanese Americans and to survivors of the Holocaust. Most recently in Tulsa, Oklahoma, a commission was

Hemings and Jefferson: Enough Already!

Commentary

By Gloria Dulan-Wilson
Staff Writer

Now that they've finally accepted what was rumor in white society, and a well known fact among black people that Thomas Jefferson, third president of the United States, and his slave, a slave, obviously herself, mainstream media has taken every effort to clean up the story and make it look like a romance, instead of what it really was — Jefferson using her to do what he could not do with the white women in his society — legalized race.

Sally was a slave in America and a servant in Paris, with no say about her body or how it was to be used, and no one to protect her. If you consider her age, 14, it was a clear case of pedophilia (child molestation) on Jefferson's part.

The TV movie, "Sally Hemings — An American Scandal," which aired on CBS-TV has tried to sanitize Jefferson's relationship with Hemings, who had at least six children by him. Sally was a beautiful woman and Jefferson's wife's "half sister" bearing a striking resemblance to her — leaving little to the imagination about what Mrs. Jefferson's father was doing to his slaves.

African Americans know that Sally Hemings was neither the first, nor the only slave to either be fathered by, or molested by, white slave owners, starting with her grandmother, mother and sister. We all have but to look around us at our varied complexions, hair textures, eye colors, to realize how many times we have been genetically altered since being dragged over on the slave ships to America in 1619.

We wet nursed white chil-

dren, delivered white babies, and performed as substitutes when white wives had their menstrual cycles, so giving Jefferson any kind of hate such as "love" or "feelings" for Sally really goes against the grain. In fact, had he not been the third president of the United States, and had Sally's brother not bargained with him for her protection and future, lest the scandal be revealed, this whole thing would be just another in the routine



President Thomas Jefferson

treatment of what most of our ancestors received. The fact that they were able to keep this little bit of white history books for two centuries until modern DNA testing and the Freedom of Information Act finally caught up with them, this little TV series would not even be airing.

What is really amazing is that this is allegedly told in Sally's voice, when one might wonder what she really said and thought about Jefferson's

advances. Clearly, it bought her a certain amount of freedom and prestige. But to think that any of the slaves lived in the lap of luxury or ate high off the proverbial hog at Monticello is ludicrous. Slavery had been in effect for nearly 170 years by the time Sally went to Paris to be Polly Jefferson's attendant. By that time it was more accepted than not Jefferson's views and writings on slavery notwithstanding, he himself would never effectively stand up against his colleagues, any more than he could afford to be seen in any intimate context with Sally, regardless of whether they were in Paris or the United States.

Hemings allegedly asks him, "If all men are created equal, that would mean all Americans including slaves?" He allegedly gave her a book by Thomas Paine. Interesting when you realize that the only way Sally would be taught to read was because she was in Paris. She certainly would not have been allowed to do so in the U.S. Since Paris, recognizing no such designation as slavery, gave her a fair amount of freedom. So certain things in this interpretation of her life is hard to swallow — like giving up her freedom to return to America. Also hard to swallow is Thomas Paine being the instigator of a relationship between Hemings and Jefferson. But then somebody has to take the blame. Surely, not Jefferson on his own — after all this was the president of the United States. There is no way he would breach protocol.

Of course, in white mythology, the more white blood a black person had, the more intelligent he or she was. Perhaps this is what sanitized the relationship between Hemings and Jefferson. Yeah — right!!!! In reality Jefferson had actually made some ridiculous

arguments. Recently, the Peoples Organization for Progress led a rally to bring attention to the matter of reparations. POP supporters departed Newark on Presidents Day and traveled to Perth Amboy, which was a slave port. The group then traveled to New York's Wall Street area, which was a large port for slaves to draw attention to an issue yet to be dealt with by Congress, the president or any policy makers to atone for worst atrocity in the history of mankind.

At a recently held meeting at City Hall, Holloway assembled three lawyers who will be handling a class action suit against Brecken Capital and Bankers Trust of New York. Announcing that Judge Jose Fuentes had granted an injunction against Brecken Capital Enterprises for closing on the more than 2,800 tax liens, valued at more than \$60 million. Fuentes determined that Brecken had been overcharging interest rates for the installment payments set up to allow the homeowners to pay off the

loans. According to Holloway, "A class action suit against Brecken Capital on behalf of those homeowners who paid monies directly to Brecken Capital was successful. It entitles the homeowner to receive all of their money back. In addition, if a homeowner lost their property entirely to Brecken Capital, they are entitled to financial remuneration up to three times the value of their property."

Tax liens were not the only issue under consideration at the meeting. United Jersey Water and Sewage had likewise levied liens against home owners, without sufficient or proper notification, often as low as \$46 to \$5,000. When the delinquency appeared on the homeowners' records, Brecken purchased them,

Jersey City launches suit against banks

By Gloria Dulan-Wilson
Staff Writer

JERSEY CITY — "Several years ago, Jersey City instituted a process called bulk lien sale. In effect, it meant if a property owner did not pay their property taxes to the city on time, a sale was held and the taxes were sold to a third party. The term "bulk lien" became a familiar phrase because many properties were lumped together and sold as a package to a "third party." This was the opening statement to an announcement from Jersey City Councilwoman Melisa Holloway's office.

According to the Councilwoman, "Jersey City has some of the highest taxes in Hudson County. And we've had budgetary problems, so in the last five years the taxes have gone up \$6.00 per thousand. And with our current budget, if we ever strike this budget, it's going to go up eighty cents. We have a \$58 million hole in our budget, so far. The state gave us \$16 million; but we just don't know where we are financially. And in the end it gets passed on to the tax payers."

Of course, the low and moderate income families are bearing the burden, while the homeowners and developers on the "rich coast" have a special tax abatement. "They're not paying school taxes or county taxes, but are paying straight to the city of Jersey City. So it's little wonder that hard working homeowners often find themselves struggling to keep up their tax payments."

Homeowners are given some steps in, buys up your taxes from the city, and offers you the opportunity to pay off your taxes in installments, instead of in a lump sum, giving you some breathing space. Many home owners did just that with Brecken Capital, often paying as high as 18 percent interest. Then, when it looked as if they were nearly out of the woods, Brecken would demand the rest of the money, and the homeowners were not able to pay, they foreclosed on their properties and evicted them. In other cases, Brecken would collect the full amount, but not pay the taxes at all. The homeowner thinking everything was fine, found his home on the auction block with no recourse. Many others, finding the 18 percent interest on top of already high taxes, exorbitant, merely walked away, leaving their homes in the hands of the fraudulent agency.

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JEFFERSON continued on A6
BANKS continued on A8

Community Calendar

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23

NEW BRUNSWICK - Two family law attorneys will examine divorce law in a free public seminar titled, "What Everyone Should Know About Child Custody, Child Support and Grandparents Rights." The seminar will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. at the NJ Law Center, off Ryders Lane. For more information, call 1-800-FREE-LAW.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23

NEWARK - "Rodgers and Hammerstein's The King & I." For more information, call (973) 639-7848.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24

NEWARK - The Newark Museum presents After Hours Jazz. The Melissa Walker Quartet show will begin at 5:30 p.m. For more information call (973) 596-6550 or 1-800-7-MUSEUM.

NEW YORK - Dillon Gagliardi is presenting "THE HORSE" this is the last day it will be viewing. For more information, call (202) 966-2977.

MORRISTOWN - The Backfield Theater at the Morris Museum, 6 Normandy Heights Road, will present Celtic Festival with Ireland's Kevin Burke, Scotland's Johnny Cunningham, and Brittany's Christian LeMayne, along with the renowned Breton guitarist Sog Sliker. Show time is 8 p.m. For further information, call (908) 768-6696.

PATERSON - Passaic County Cultural & Heritage Council at Passaic County Community College presents Collective Expression by Myma Loy & And Alveston at LRC Gallery. The reception is from 12 - 1 p.m. Broadway Gallery, One College Boulevard, Paterson. For further information, call (973) 684-5448.

NEW BRUNSWICK - Theater-Lambda Night Series for the gay and lesbian community viewing at the George Street Playhouse, 8 Livingston Avenue. Show time is 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. For further information and ticket cost, call (732) 246-7717.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25

NEWARK - San Francisco Symphony-Michael Tilson Thomas, conductor. This event is a part of the AT&T Orchestra. Concert starts at 8 p.m. For more information, call Prudential Hall at (973) 297-5534.

MOUNTAINVIEW - Snakes Of New Jersey Meet Trill's live snakes and learn some surprising serpentine facts. Observe a snake feeding. Show will last from 12 - 1 p.m. For families and children 6 and up. Fee is \$3 per person. For further information, call (908) 788-3670.

NEWARK - Women United In Conjunction With National Sisters In The Life Production, presents Pre-Women's History Month featuring Fashion and African American Entertainment at 1028 Broad Street. Doors open at 9 p.m. Models Wanted. Tickets \$20 at Door \$25. VIP TICKETS \$30 W/3 Free Drinks. Free Buffet. For further information, call (973) 624-1584.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26

CAPE MAY - Mid Atlantic Center For the Arts is sponsoring a tour that will begin at 3 p.m. Washington, D.C. - Mid Atlantic Center For the Arts. Information Booth, Washington and Ocean Street. The tour will last from 12 - 3 p.m. For more information, call (609) 884-5404 or 1-800-275-4278.

NEWARK - The Newark Museum is planning a workshop for African American Artists Series. Guest starring artist Gladys Barker Graust at 1, 2, and 3 p.m. For more information, call (973) 596-6550.

NEW BRUNSWICK - Comedian, Bill

Cosby appears at The State Theatre located at 15 Livingston Avenue, from 3 - 6 p.m. Ticket cost is \$35.00. For further information, call NJ Symphony Orchestra 1-800-ALLEGRO.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27

NEWARK - Lecture: "The Feminine Voice," expressions by an African American artist, followed by a reception and book signing at 2 p.m. For more information, call (973) 596-6550.

NEW BRUNSWICK - Children's Theatre "Minnie The Pooh" showing at the State Theatre, 15 Livingston Avenue. Show will last from 1 - 4 p.m., ticket cost is \$12-14. For further information, call (732) 246-7511.

NEW BRUNSWICK - Exhibit Paintings by Mikaly Monckmacy at the Museum of American Hungarian Foundation located at 300 Somerset Street. Exhibit lasts from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. the cost is \$3. For further information, call (732) 845-5777.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28

NEW YORK - Medical Education for South African Blacks will honor Nelson Mandela at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel at 7:30 p.m. For more information call (212) 704-8298.

ATLANTIC CITY - World Champion Louis Negría & Ray Longe present the most incredible fight from around the world for the World Championship Kickboxing. This event will be held at the Tropics at 8 p.m. For more information, call 1-800-735-1420.

WAYNE - Randy Breaker performs with the William Paterson university jazz Ensemble directed by David Demsey. For more information contact Mary Beth Zeman at (973) 720-2444.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28

WLJG1 - (PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS) - "Mahalia Jackson: THE POWER AND THE GLORY" Narrated by Paul Winfield, will begin at 9 p.m.

WLJG1 - "THE FRIENDS", based on the 1950 novel by Rosa Guy, begins at 10:30 p.m.

JERSEY CITY - A support group of gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and friends will meet throughout the spring at New Jersey City University. Meetings will be held from 6 - 7 p.m. To register or for further information, call the NJCU Women's Center at (201) 200-3189.

NEW BRUNSWICK - Book Discussion Group "Cold Mountain" by Charles Fraser, at the New Brunswick Public Library located at 60 Livingston Avenue. Storytelling begins at 1:30 p.m. For further information, call (732) 745-5108.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 29

MAHWAH - Culture of Peace: Global Challenges For The 21st Century. Ramapo College Lecture Series 2000 will feature Cyril Delleah speaking on "African, Sustainable Democracy." Lecture will be held in the Mahwah, York Room, at 6 p.m., there will be no charge. For more information, contact Terence Miller at (201) 684-7533.

WAYNE - William Paterson University Center will hold an Open House, the program will be held from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. in College Hall room 311. Admission is free and refreshments will be served. For additional information, call line Torres at (973) 720-2491.

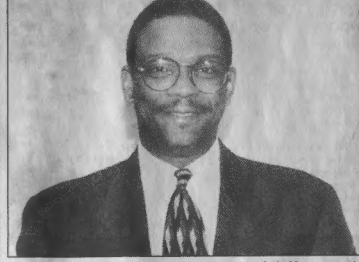
NEWARK - Black History Month "Crowning Glory Essay Contest." Topic of the essay will be "Why I'm Proud To Be African." Entries must be 2 typed pages or less submitted by Feb. 29. Mail essays to WSOUMM, INC. 53 Lincoln Park, Newark, NJ 07102.

Bergen County Freeholders take time to congratulate new fireman



PARAMUS - Bergen County Freeholder Vice Chairman Richard Mola (left) and Freeholders Douglas M. Bern and Dennis McMorney (right) took time out to congratulate Waldick resident David Murphy upon his recent graduation from the Bergen County Fire Academy. Ceremonies were held at Paramus Catholic High School.

Myers appointed CSB's new VP of Commercial Loans



TEANECK - Veteran commercial lender Kenneth A. Myers, a resident of Plainfield, has been appointed Vice President of Commercial Loans at Community State Bank. Myers will be responsible for providing financial solutions with fast, local decision-making for small business, commercial mortgage applicants, real estate and other services.

UPS employees at Newark Airport support United Way of Newark



NEWARK - Mel White (center), United Way campaign coordinator at United Parcel Services, and other employees at the Newark Airport location show their support for United Way's caring community. The UPS employees at the Newark Airport division help make a difference in neighborhoods by donating \$21,000 to United Way. The UPS employee donation was 23 percent greater than last year's total.

Ziyad honored as Fire Department's 'Employee of the Month' award



NEWARK - Mayor Sharpe James (right) honored Fire Captain Pateen Ziyad (center) and Emergency Management Director Robert Swales (left) for their actions above and beyond the call of duty. "Their unstiring and dedicated efforts have made the City of Newark well," said Newark Fire Director, Stanley Koscup. "Their actions are a credit to the Newark Fire Department."

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Oliver Lake to perform at Bloomfield College



BLOOMFIELD - Bloomfield College will launch its fourth annual Diversity Week celebration on Feb. 28 with "Collaborations in Diversity," a special performance of dance, music and poetry featuring renowned saxophonist Oliver Lake of Montclair. This free performance, which also attracts students from several schools, will be held at 7 p.m. in the college's Robert V. Van Fossen Theatre.

Black quotes to live by...

"The color of the skin is in no way connected with the strength of mind or intellectual powers."

Benjamin Banneker (1731-1806)

taken from "Preface to Banneker's Almanac, 1796"



Benjamin Banneker
1731-1806

Benjamin Banneker was the first black man to publish an almanac. Banneker was born in 1731 to free slaves in Maryland. After learning the trade of tobacco farming, he took an interest in mathematics and mechanics and built a working striding clock around 1752. He used a watch someone else left as a model for the clock. The clock was constructed so well it was still running at the time of his death in 1806. In 1817, a Quaker neighbor lent Banneker a textbook on astronomy and instruments, and he taught himself enough to produce an almanac.

NATIONAL BRIEFS

BASKETBALL GREAT MICHAEL JORDAN ENDORSES BRADLEY

LOS ANGELES — Basketball superstar Michael Jordan endorses Bill Bradley for president in a 30-second television advertisement that will begin running in selected markets across the country Friday morning, the Bradley campaign announced today.

The ad, filmed two months ago, marks the first time Jordan has publicly endorsed a candidate for political office. It features Jordan looking directly into the camera, declaring his support for Bradley based on his commitment to health care for all children, cutting gun violence and other issues.

"I am very honored to receive Michael's support for my campaign, particularly since he has not publicly endorsed a political candidate before today. I have worked hard to bring new people into the political process and to bring people together around a shared vision for the country," Bradley said.

As a candidate for president Bradley has put forward an agenda that includes universal health for children and access to affordable insurance for adults; racial unity; an end to child poverty; licensing and registration of all handguns; improved public education at every life stage; and meaningful campaign finance reform.

NEARLY HALF OF BLACK HOUSEHOLDS HEADED BY LONE WOMAN

WASHINGTON (AP) — Black households are more likely than white households to be headed by a woman without a partner living at home, and the overall black population tends to be younger, the Census Bureau reports.

Data from 1999 being released Monday show that while married couples head 47 percent of the country's 8.4 million black households, about 45 percent, or 3.8 million families, are led by lone women without partners present.

Of the nation's 53.1 million white households, only 13 percent are headed by women alone.

The statistics are being released in conjunction with Black History Month, which is February.

About 33 percent of the country's 35 million blacks are age 18 or younger, compared with 24 percent of America's 193 million whites.

The statistics offer more proof that America's population will become even more diverse in the 21st century. According to the Census Bureau, the black population would rise to 59.2 million in 2050, a 70 percent increase.

Under this projection, the black share of the total population would increase slightly, from 13 percent to 15 percent.

Turning to education, 77 percent of blacks age 25 and over had at least a high school education, while 15 percent possessed at least a bachelor's degree. Among whites age 25 and over, 85 percent attained a high school-level degree, and 28 percent finished college or higher.

Blacks still live predominantly in the South, and in metropolitan areas. More than 55 percent of blacks live in the South, and over 86 percent of blacks live in cities or their surrounding suburbs.

The new statistics can be found starting Monday at the Census Bureau's World Wide Web site, "http://www.census.gov".

HANK AARON WARNS KIDS AGAINST LOOKING TO ATHLETES AS ROLE MODELS

HOMERVILLE, Ga. (AP) — Home-runking Hank Aaron, speaking at a black history celebration in the sparsely populated town of Homer, cautioned children in the crowd against pinning their hopes on being a great athlete.

"Remember this. You can be the best player, break a leg or an arm and lose everything," Aaron told the small crowd gathered in the high school cafeteria for the annual Clinch County NAACP black history celebration on Saturday.

Aaron, who has more career at-bats, RBIs and home runs than any player in baseball, told the crowd that some of his greatest accomplishments took place off the field. He said one of his fondest memories was being in the Boy Scouts in Mobile, Ala. As a Scout, Aaron got to direct traffic for a then-segregated Mardi Gras celebration.

"I carried that with me through all my life," Aaron said.

"You're only going to be 15 or 16 once. You have the chance to be anything you want to be, but you have to work at it."

New York legislature pushing Harriet Tubman state holiday bill

By Jennifer Jordan

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — When Harriet Tubman conducted more than 300 slaves to New York and other northern states in the 1850s, they often traveled in small groups under cover of night, from one dark, damp, basement hiding place to another.

Her efforts have since become public and celebrated, and New York legislators want to further promote this famous conductor of the Underground Railroad.

Key members of the majority parties in the state Assembly and Senate are sponsoring legislation to make March 10, the anniversary of Tubman's death in 1913, a state holiday.

"For too long, Harriet Tubman's accomplishments have been in the background of New York state history," Republican state Sen. Michael Nozzolio said Monday.

Nozzolio represents parts of the Finger Lakes region where Tubman moved in the 1850s. Assemblyman Arthur Eve, a Buffalo Democrat, who is deputy speaker of the Assembly, is sponsoring the bill in his house with 30 cosponsors.

The measure would make Harriet Tubman day the 13th official state holiday and the most recent since Martin Luther King Jr. Day was created.

Eve and Nozzolio are also sponsoring a resolution that calls

upon Gov. George Pataki to declare March 10 Harriet Tubman Day in New York. That resolution would not have the force of making the day an official annual holiday.

The state has attempted lately to highlight its connection with the Underground Railroad, naming a New York Freedom Trail Commission and including many details on the Underground Rail-

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road in school curricula. Slaves either stayed tem-

porarily or settled in New York and other northern states as the route forced them in basements and other secretive locations from the South in the 1800s.

Tubman was born into slavery around 1820 on a Maryland plantation. She escaped in 1849 to Philadelphia, where she headed of the Underground Railroad.

While living in Canada, she met William Seward, a U.S. Senator, Secretary of State, and former governor of New York.

Seward provided Tubman a home in 1857, which she later purchased, to serve as a headquarters for her railroad work. She was one of the most influential "conductors" of the railroad, traveling south 19 times to free slaves.

Tubman was also known for inviting a riot at the spot in Troy where an escaped slave was reaptured. The riot has been called one of the fiercest in the anti-slavery movement.

No other state has a Harriet Tubman Day, Eve's office said.

However, the lawmakers said other states have followed New York in passing Underground Railroad measures, and he hopes the same will happen with Harriet Tubman Day.

Eve added that the Under-



Harriet Tubman

ground Railroad was significant to whites, blacks, and Native Americans, because members of each group participated in the

pathway. He said the legislation would be an effort to recognize that union.

"I think it will help bind us

closer to one another," he said. Pataki's office would not immediately comment on the legislation.

Officials to travel state to push census

By Andrew Welsh Hughes

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — From inner cities to rural hamlets, Gov. Bob Taft and Secretary of State Kenneth Blackwell will travel the state to encourage Ohioans to participate in the 2000 census.

The goal is to avoid the undercount of residents, of people, minorities and children, that occurred in the 1990 census. At stake are millions of dollars in federal money allocated to cities and communities based on the size and need of their populations.

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Under this projection, the black share of the total population would increase slightly, from 13 percent to 15 percent.

Turning to education, 77 percent of blacks age 25 and over had at least a high school education, while 15 percent possessed at least a bachelor's degree. Among whites age 25 and over, 85 percent attained a high school-level degree, and 28 percent finished college or higher.

Blacks still live predominantly in the South, and in metropolitan areas. More than 55 percent of blacks live in the South, and over 86 percent of blacks live in cities or their surrounding suburbs.

The new statistics can be found starting Monday at the Census Bureau's World Wide Web site, "http://www.census.gov".

HANK AARON WARNS KIDS AGAINST LOOKING TO ATHLETES AS ROLE MODELS

HOMERVILLE, Ga. (AP) — Home-runking Hank Aaron, speaking at a black history celebration in the sparsely populated town of Homer, cautioned children in the crowd against pinning their hopes on being a great athlete.

"Remember this. You can be the best player, break a leg or an arm and lose everything," Aaron told the small crowd gathered in the high school cafeteria for the annual Clinch County NAACP black history celebration on Saturday.

Aaron, who has more career at-bats, RBIs and home runs than any player in baseball, told the crowd that some of his greatest accomplishments took place off the field. He said one of his fondest memories was being in the Boy Scouts in Mobile, Ala. As a Scout, Aaron got to direct traffic for a then-segregated Mardi Gras celebration.

"I carried that with me through all my life," Aaron said.

"You're only going to be 15 or 16 once. You have the chance to be anything you want to be, but you have to work at it."

Help make the Black community count!



we'll see that Gov. Taft and Secretary of State Kenneth Blackwell will be the two most outspoken Ohioans on census participation," said Blackwell spokesman Carlo LaPora.

Monday, "It's an important issue and both agree that Ohio

has a lot riding on it.

An accurate count is especially important because many of those left out in 1990 were minorities and children in poor urban and rural areas, LaPora said.

The Census Bureau estimated that in Ohio in 1990 it undercounted 3.5 percent of blacks and 2.8 percent of Hispanics.

The bureau also undercounted 2 percent of all Ohio children, including 6.5 percent of black children and 2.8 percent of Hispanic children.

In a recent survey of 34 cities nationally that included Cincinnati, Cuyahoga Falls, Dayton and Youngstown, the U.S. Conference of Mayors estimated the under-

count cost cities at least \$500 mil-

lion.

Cincinnati estimated an undercount of 3.1 percent that cost the city \$40 million in lost state and federal funds in the 1990s, according to the survey.

Dayton estimated an undercount of 2.3 percent, but didn't provide an estimate of lost money. Youngstown estimated an undercount of 4.6 percent and a loss of \$32.3 million. Cuyahoga Falls did not report an undercount.

A committee in Dayton is working to increase participation by black and Appalachian communities, as well as by college students living in off-campus apartments, said Jeffrey Payne with Dayton's city planning office.

"We're trying to strategically attack this challenge in areas where we can make a strong impact," Payne said Monday. "But it's still going to be up to our citizens actually getting out and doing what they have to do—that's filling out forms and responding back, honestly and promptly."

In addition to Taft and Blackwell's initiative, 44 committees similar to Dayton's are working across Ohio to improve participation rates, said Steve Kelley, senior economist with the Ohio Department of Development.

"We have raised the awareness dramatically from the previous census and we're very excited about the response we're getting from communities to get the message out," he said Monday.

Mandela opens museum to honor his experience

MEZEZO, South Africa (AP) — Ten years to the day that he walked out of an apartheid prison, Nelson Mandela on Friday returned to his birthplace to open a museum honoring his extraordinary life.

Little is left of the hut where the former president was born 81 years ago in this tiny, unremarkable village in the impoverished Transkei region of the Eastern Cape province. A stone and wood monument containing a series of photographs of Mandela has been erected near the hut's foundations, one of the three components of the museum established by the arts and culture department with the hope of attracting tourists and creating jobs.

In the picture captions, Mandela sheds some light on how a rural village boy went on to lead the struggle against the oppressive apartheid state.

"In my youth in the Transkei, I listened to my elders telling stories of the old days," he wrote. "Among these related to the wars fought by our ancestors in defense of the fatherland. I hoped then that life may offer me the opportunity to serve my people and make me able to contribute to their freedom struggle."

I cannot pinpoint a moment when I became politicized, when I knew that I would be spending my life in the liberation struggle. To be free is not merely to cut off one's own chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others."

More than 500 people descended on the remote village for the museum opening, among them members of the royal family of the Xhosa people, Mandela's ethnic group.

Black History Is Truly Uplifting!



When you build upon an illustrious past, true greatness is within your grasp.

World Creators

Like myself, there are millions of black women out there doing it for themselves — bringing home the bacon and serving it up. A recent national study revealed that half of black households are headed by women — "The country's 8.4 million black households, about 46 percent, or 3.8 million families, are led by lone women with no partners present." I found this to be an astounding statistic. The reason for this disparaging and disproportionate difference, in comparison to white households entails a host of intrinsic reasoning too complicated to detail in this short writing. My point today is this: As a single black female and sole supporter of my teenage daughter, homeowner, and recent cum laude college graduate, I take offense to any man telling me I found this to be an astounding statistic. The man, someone I love dearly had the nerve to tell me this. Believe me, he's sorry for that male chauvinist remark. Beyond offended, I found his mindless thought outlandishly exasperating — to think men still think like this. In light of Women's History Month and all that it means to be a WOMAN, we must still forge ahead in the struggle for MAN to recognize our strengths. We must still battle for the respect we undeniably deserve — WOMAN does not equate to bitches and he's, or mere objects for sexual pleasures — something young sisters need to understand. As a WOMAN, we are supreme beings — we create and nurture the world. Sisters explain this to your sons!

The Next Civil Rights battleground

By Mike Green

Americans recently paused to reflect on the legacy of the Martin Luther King, Jr. It is fitting that we did so because he led a dramatic civil rights revolution by asking if America still abided by her founding creed that we are all created equal and have the right to live free and develop to the fullest our God-given talents.

King refused to believe that the vaults of opportunity and justice were empty. He was right. Thanks to his efforts, the 1964 Civil Rights Act, the 1965 Voting Rights Act and other measures, helped open those vaults.

And yet so much remains to be done. While the black middle class has grown since the 1960s, blacks remain disproportionately plagued by unemployment, poverty, and limited family assets. So, we must remove the heavy hand of big government that impedes black progress today just as rampant racism restrained blacks in the past. I believe that expanding educational freedom and economic opportunity is the great civil rights battleground of the 21st century.

America cannot excel in this new economy if it traps millions of children in a mismanaged, bureaucratic, educational wasteland.

A good education is a civil right and a passport to economic freedom. No mother should be forced to send her child to a bad school. I suggest immediately converting federal education funds into block grants for states and local communities with one provision: Give parents the freedom to choose schools that work, private, or parochial and give teachers the freedom to create such schools.

I would like to see a wide range of local and state-based reforms to improve public schools and give parents and teachers more control. Such reforms include opportunity scholarships, educational savings accounts, tuition tax credits, more charter schools, merit pay for teachers, fast-track teacher certification for retired business leaders and military officials, and the creation of a new frontier of faith-based schools.

Meanwhile, I will continue to fight for tax freedom. Last spring, I met with black ministers in Baltimore.

One of the folks in my church are beginning to move ahead. A pastor told me, "They're beginning to create some wealth. They're putting together a nest egg for the future. But they're facing new threats like capital gains taxes and inheri-

ance taxes that threaten to take away huge portions of what they want to pass on to their children. What can we do about that?"

The Internal Revenue Service and 7.5 million-word federal tax code are real barriers to equal opportunity. So it is time to bury the tax code.

Taxpayers would be free to choose an honest, simple, flat tax that treats everyone fairly and equally. As I have said for years, there should be no tax on savings, pensions, or Social Security. No marriage penalty, no death tax. That's real money for real people struggling to pay their mortgages, afford health insurance, and save for college. It could remove 20 million low-income Americans from the tax rolls.

Beyond education and taxes lies the issue of wealth creation. In 1998, the Urban League reported that white families enjoy nearly 12 times more financial assets than black families. How do we help close this "racial asset gap"?

The key is freeing workers to have the lion's share of their Social Security taxes deposited in their own personal retirement accounts. Seniors should be fully protected — no benefit cuts, no increased retirement age, and no more raids on the Social Security trust fund.

In fact, we must remove current taxes on Social Security benefits and current beneficiaries. Promises made must be promises kept. Workers under 55, meanwhile, could use their new accounts to create real personal wealth. A single mother raising two children and earning \$30,000 per year could retire with a nest egg exceeding a half-million dollars.

Done right, Social Security reform represents the greatest opportunity in American history to wipe out hard-core poverty in the next generation. African-American men would be the new system's greatest beneficiaries. Sadly, they tend to have shorter life spans than others and often see little if any of their Social Security benefits. But under our plan, a black man who dies prematurely would leave his assets not to the Treasury but to his widow's pocket.

Can America fulfill Dr. King's dream of freedom and opportunity? The answer depends on whether we choose politics-as-usual or a principled, substantive vision for genuine reform. Let us choose wisely.

Mike Green is an associate of Project 21 and the president of the Committee to Restore America's Foundation in San Diego, California. He can be reached at green117@world.com.

By Dr. Conrad W. Worrell

The African Centered Education Movement has brought a new meaning to the annual African American History Month celebrations that have become so popular. That new meaning of African Centered thought, as defined by Dr. Wade Nobles, is nothing more than a term categorizing a quality of thought and practice which is rooted in the cultural image and interest of African people and which represents and reflects the life experience, history and traditions of African people as the center of analyses.

Dr. Nobles further states that African Centered thought is "the intellectual and philosophical foundations upon which African people should create their own scientific criterion for authenticating human reality."

Through the African Centered Education Movement, African American History Month has now become the catalyst for the intense study of Africa and the history of African people throughout the world 365 days a year.

More than forty thousand people gathered in February of 1996 what at that time was called "Negro History Week" would indeed be inspired by the continuing discussion and growth of the African Centered Education Movement of African people in all subjects. Dr. Woodson was deeply concerned that the contributions of African people to this society and the world were not given their proper recognition.

Dr. Woodson's great book, *The Miseducation of the Negro*, written in 1933, described

By Dr. Manning Marable

It was immensely significant for black America that the last major public demonstration in the U.S. in the 20th century was a protest over global economics and trade.

Dr. Carter G. Woodson, who founded in Seattle to oppose the policies of the World Trade Organization, which since 1995 has functioned like an international cabal in league with powerful corporate and financial interests. Labor activists went to Seattle to oppose the WTO to enact trade sanctions against nations that use child labor, prohibit labor unions and that pay slave wages to their workers. Environmentalists came to Seattle to pressure the WTO to ensure environmental safeguards would be part of any global trade agreements.

What motivated both labor and environmentalists is the political recognition that issues like human rights, employment and healthcare cannot be addressed individually as separate issues. Nor can they be effectively discussed only in the context of a single nation-state. Capital is now truly global, and any analysis of specific socioeconomic problems that may exist in our society must be viewed from an international perspective.

The WTO was set up to be the global headquarters for drafting and enforcing trading rules. When one member country challenges another's trading practices, disputes

in the first chapter titled, "The Seat of the Trouble," the essence of what the African Centered Curriculum Movement is battling against today: 57 years later.

Dr. Woodson explained that, "Of the hundreds of Negro high schools recently examined in the United States Bureau of Education only

However, we are quite clear that the real meaning of African American History Month, in this era, is to take the spirit from all the celebrations, great speeches, great entertainment, and festive events, to establish as a major agenda item in our movement, the serious study of the contributions of African people 365 days a year.

eighteen offer a course taking up the history of the Negro, and in most of the Negro colleges and universities where the Negro is thought of, the race is studied only as a problem or dismissed as a logical consequence." As

are settled secretly by panels of trade experts Flame Bernard, director of Harvard's Trade Union Program, explains that the WTO's rules are based on privatization, free trade and few regulations on the environment. Bernard states the WTO's rules "value corporate power and commercial interests over labor and human rights, environmental and health concerns and diversity.

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rate power and commercial interests over labor and human rights, environmental and health concerns and diversity. They increase inequality and stunt democracy. The WTO version of globalization is not a rising tide lifting all boats, as free traders insist, but a

a result of Woodson's observation, a movement for Black Studies erupted over America and stimulated at the elementary and secondary levels dramatic changes in courses dealing with Black History.

As we have come full circle today in our general acceptance of being an African people, who ancestral homeland is Africa, we also begin to recognize that African American History Month celebrations and activities are great, but the contributions of African people must be emphasized throughout the year.

However, we are quite clear that the real meaning of African American History Month, in this era, is to take the spirit from all the celebrations, great speeches, great entertainment, and festive events, to establish as a major agenda item in our movement, the serious study of the contributions of African people 365 days a year.

This is the basis of the current African Centered Education Movement, whose objective is to take control of the education of African people in America as we struggle to take control of the institutions, the educational institutions in our communities and particularly in our schools.

We must take the spirit of African American History Month to another level. Our history must be studied throughout the year.

Dr. Conrad Worrell is the National Chairman of the National Black Union (NBU) located at 12817 South Ashland Avenue, Flr. 1, Calumet Park, Illinois, 60627, 708-389-3992.

dangerous race to the bottom."

What kinds of "dangerous" priorities are we talking about? Consider that the WTO rules that deny Third World nations the right to have automatic licensing on patented but absolutely essential medicines. So for example, even when African nations currently ravaged by diseases such as AIDS acquire the scientific and technical means to manufacture drugs to save brown and working people here in the U.S. As globalized capitalism destroys labor unions and the environment abroad, it is carrying out a similar agenda in our own backyards. For these reasons, we must create new organizations and a new political language that can unify international groups into collective protest actions. We are challenged to build new political networks and information sharing across the boundaries of race, gender, class and nation. We must make the connections in the fight for democracy in the 21st century.

Dr. Manning Marable is Professor of History and Political Science and the Director of the Institute for Research in African-American Studies at Columbia University. "Along the Color Line" is distributed free of charge to over 325 publications throughout the U.S. and international. He can be reached at marable@earthlink.net or on the internet at www.manningmarable.net.

Seattle and Beyond: Making the connection in the 21st century

Send Elian Gonzalez back to Cuba

By Michael King

Elian Gonzalez's parents were divorced, much the same way that thousands of couples have separated and divorced in the United States. Elian and his brother were in the custody of his father, Juan, with his mother taking him on weekends; again, much the same way as many couples in the United States.

What's different is that Elizabeth Broton Rodriguez then undertook a journey across the Florida Straits in a leaky boat filled with other refugees attempting to come to America. She felt that she could give her son a better life there with relatives of hers that already live in Southern Florida. She wanted her son to be there with her. The journey for many refugees that cross the Straits is a hazardous one many have died making the attempt.

Elian's mother kidnapped him and took him with her, and during the course of the journey died when the boat sank. Elian survived by clinging to the inside tube of a tire until rescued by fishermen. Elian's relatives — uncles, cousins, aunts in Southern Florida came forward to claim him. But instead of returning him to his father, they insisted that they take custody to keep him away from Cuba and provide a better life than his father could offer there.

What no one mentions is that American officials are ignoring both international and domestic law to make a political statement.

Because American officials and Cuban expatriates despise Fidel Castro so much, they will aid and abet kidnappers to get back at the Cuban leader. Never mind that the boy's father insists that the boy be sent back home. The Florida relatives don't care — they

The larger irony here is that if Elian and his mother were coming from Haiti or the Dominican Republic or trying to cross the border from Mexico when his mother died, he would be shipped back to the country of origin without as much as a second thought. But because he is from Cuba — and because of the 40-year-old war of words across the Florida Straits — this has become a political issue.

want to keep the boy themselves. And because they hate Castro so much, American legislators want to go as far as to grant citizenship on Elian when Congress reconvenes this month.

Indiana Republican Dan Burton sponsored Elian so that he can appear before House committee in early March. This would

keep him in the United States after the Immigration and Naturalization Service, in keeping with the law, said that Elian should be returned to his father in Cuba. Other congressmen from Florida, including Republicans Lincoln Diaz-Balart and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (both from Cuban expatriate families) are making other attempts to circumvent the law to keep Elian in the U.S. and away from his father.

As we can imagine, this has turned into a political football for the presidential candidates on both sides of the aisle but it need not be. The entire episode is simply a custody issue, and not a complicated one at that.

The larger irony here is that if Elian and his mother were coming from Haiti or the Dominican Republic or trying to cross the border from Mexico when his mother died, he would be shipped back to the country of origin without as much as a second thought. But because he is from Cuba — and because of the 40-year-old war of words across the Florida Straits — this has become a political issue.

If the U.S. Government can sanction the kidnapping of a boy from Cuba, can the kidnapping of children from within the country be far behind?

Michael King is a member of Project 21 and an Internet and radio broadcaster in Atlanta, Georgia. He can be reached at mking@bellsouth.net and http://www.word-enut.com/rainbows.

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BUSINESS CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23

PLAINFIELD - The Entrepreneurial Training Institute will hold a class from 6 to 9 p.m. at Union County College, 232 East Second Street, Plainfield. For more information, call (908) 292-9297.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24

TRENTON - The Second Annual Black Executive Corporate Awards Reception "The Contents of Our Character" will be held at 6:00 p.m. at the Music Temple. For more information, call (609) 393-2323.

NEW BRUNSWICK/PISCATAWAY - "Making Strong Teams Work: The Next Generation?" Rutgers Family Business Forum Workshop will be held from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Cook Campus Center, Bell Road. For further information contact Steacy B. Hersh at (732) 932-7004 ext. 615.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28

JERSEY CITY - The Entrepreneurial Training Institute will hold a training class at the Trust Company of New Jersey, 1000 River Street from 6 to 9 p.m. For more information, call (201) 292-9297.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 29

LAKEWOOD - The Entrepreneurial Training Institute will hold a class at Lakewood High School, 855 Somerset Avenue, from 6 to 9 p.m. For more information, call (609) 282-9297.

LINCROFT - The Montclair County Park System will host "Successful Business Management" from 7-10 p.m. at the Thompson Park Center, New Jersey Springs Road, Lincroft. For more information call (732) 642-4400.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1

NEW YORK - JVC Jazz Festival held at Carnegie Hall with the Carnegie Hall Jazz Band will be presented March 1-4. Call (212) 496-9000 ext. 1370 for more information.

FRIDAY, MARCH 3

WVUE - The traveling exhibit "Before You Can Say Jackie Robinson: A History of Black Baseball in New Jersey" will be shown from January 24 through March 3 in five Ben Shahn Galleries at William Paterson University in Wayne. Gallery hours are Monday-Friday 10am-6pm. Admission is FREE. For additional information call (973) 720-2654.

New Jersey Citizen Action picks Paterson HUBCO



Rev. Reginald Jackson

PATERSON — New Jersey Citizen Action, the state's largest consumer watchdog organization, and Passaic County community leaders picketed the Paterson branch of Hudson United Bank (HUBCO) at the corner of Clark and Market today, demanding that the Federal Reserve hold a public hearing on the impending HUBCO/DIME merger. Carrying signs, they demanded that HUBCO come to the table and address their prior record of lending to minority and low-income residents in 1998 in North Jersey. The application for HUBCO's merger with Dime was announced on December 9, 1999; New Jersey Citizen Action filed a formal challenge to the Federal Reserve on January 7th, 2000.

In 1998, only one mortgage was made to African-American borrowers in all of Passaic and Bergen counties, and no refinances were made. Of 78

Home Improvement Loans made in the two counties in 1998, only five loans were made to African-Americans.

According to data from the Home Mortgage and Disclosure Act (HMDA) filings for 1998, HUBCO's poor lending record is consistent with figures from other New Jersey areas. In the entire State of New Jersey, only five mortgages and four loans to refinance were made by HUBCO to African-American borrowers. No mortgages or loans to refinance were made to Latino or African-American people in the Middlesex County MSA (Metropolitan Statistical Area), which also includes Somerset and Hunterdon Counties. The bank made only one home improvement loan to an African American in the area in that year. Hudson United made only 23 conventional Home Purchase Loans in the Jersey City MSA, which includes all of Hudson

County. None of these loans were made to African-Americans and none were made to low-income earners. In that same year, in the Newark MSA (which includes all of Essex, Union and Morris counties), 64 Home Purchase Loans were made, and only one such loan was made to an African-American. Two loans were made to low-income earners. In 1998, Hudson United made 22 Home Refinance Loans in the Jersey City MSA; none of these loans were made to African-Americans or to low or moderate income borrowers. Of the 93 Home Refinance Loans made in the Newark MSA, only one was made to an African-American borrower. Although 28% of these combined counties' residents are low-income, only 5.1% and 3.5% of HUBCO's home purchase loans were made to low-income residents in 1997 and 1998, respectively. Zero percent and 2.2% of HUBCO's loans to refinance were made to low income residents in 1997 and 1998. Even though 35.5% of Essex, Morris and Union counties census tracts are low and moderate income (LMI), only 9% of HUBCO's small business loans were made in LMI tracts in 1998.

Lending by all banks in Passaic and Bergen Counties in 1998 was far from satisfactory, but in most instances HUBCO measured far below the aggregate in lending to minorities. In 1998 2.6% of home purchase loans by all lenders went to African-Americans in these counties, while only 8% of HUBCO's mortgages were made to that population. Only 2.8% of all banks' loans to refinance in 1998 went to African-Americans, while none of Hudson United's refinance loans were made to that population. Just 3.7% and 11.7% of all lenders' Home Improvement loans were made to African-American and Latino borrowers, respectively, while only .3% and 6.8% of HUBCO's Home Improvement Loans were made to those groups.

Of equal concern is the broken promise HUBCO made to

the people of Newark in 1997. In 1997, NJ Citizen Action picketed Security National Bank's poor lending record in the City of Newark, and was ultimately able to negotiate an agreement with Security National to improve their lending, an agreement subsequently adopted by HUBCO when they acquired Security National. In that agreement, there was a pledge to set aside \$4 million for Newark programs and products that would establish a level of lending and investments for Newark residents, businesses and affordable housing development. This amount was increased when HUBCO's acquisitions activated the agreement's escalation clause in mid-1998. In October, HUBCO reported to NJCA that as of June 1999, only \$323,300 had been invested.

"A look at the facts makes it clear that the bank has not made a serious effort to lend to qualified minorities. The lack of loans, the amount of funds loaned, all cry out for both confession and repentance."

— Rev. Reginald Jackson

NJ Citizen Action has signed agreements in place with both HUBCO and Dime Savings Bank of NJ and had anticipated that a joint agreement incorporating the terms of the escalation clause would be negotiated. However, there is great concern about HUBCO's commitment to the urban areas it has pledged to serve and the bank's unwillingness to address those concerns two years into the current agreement. An escalation clause that went into effect in 1998 increasing HUBCO's CRA pledge does not seem to have had any effect on the bank's subsequent lending

in Newark, a city the bank had specifically promised to focus on. Why should we believe a \$2.5 billion pledge from the merged bank will find its way to minority and low income citizens in this and other urban areas?" commented Cathy Malmstrom, NJCA's Director of Community Revitalization Project.

NJ Citizen Action has been urging HUBCO to come to the table since early October to update the agreement currently in place to address the bank's problems with lending to minorities and low income people in urban areas.

The bank has repeatedly ignored requests for specific information about how it has been meeting its goals and has refused to meet with NJCA. Diane Sterner, director of the NJ Affordable Housing Network suggested, "if there are problems getting projects to qualify, HUBCO's action and the Affordable Housing Network to discuss in detail what has been exempted and what has not worked, so that together we can figure out a way to remedy the situation." NJCA has enlisted the aid of the Newark City Council, the Hudson County Executive, the Mayor of Jersey City, and the Boards of Preadministers both Essex and Hudson Counties. Woodbridge Mayor James McGreevey is planning to launch a township resolution supporting NJCA's position.

"This merged entity will be a strong presence in New Jersey. Information about how it has been meeting its goals and has refused to meet with NJCA. Diane Sterner, director of the NJ Affordable Housing Network suggested, "if there are problems getting projects to qualify, HUBCO's action and the Affordable Housing Network to discuss in detail what has been exempted and what has not worked, so that together we can figure out a way to remedy the situation." NJCA has enlisted the aid of the Newark City Council, the Hudson County Executive, the Mayor of Jersey City, and the Boards of Preadministers both Essex and Hudson Counties. Woodbridge Mayor James McGreevey is planning to launch a township resolution supporting NJCA's position.

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NJDA helps small business in Long Branch

LONG BRANCH — Thanks to assistance from the New Jersey Development Authority for Small Businesses, Minorities' and Women's Enterprises (NJDA), a local business in Long Branch will be able to expand its operations.

After exhausting all of her financial resources through family members, Beth Woolley, owner of Peaceable Kingdom, a retail cemetery monument and bronze plaque sales business, was able to secure a \$60,000 low interest loan through the Authority. The funds will be used to purchase a house with two garages in the center of the business district where visibility is better. The new loan is for a term of 10 years and carries an interest rate of 6.5%.

"If it weren't for NJDA's low interest loan, I would have never been able to buy the building" said Ms. Woolley. "This low interest loan came at just the

right time; my landlord was increasing my rent at my current location. Believe it or not, through NJDA's help, my mortgage payment will be substantially lower than my rent payment," continued Ms. Woolley.

Peaceable Kingdom was established in 1985, specializing in cemetery monuments and public monuments and plaques. Ms. Woolley provided 60 monuments and 13 granite benches for Presidential Park in Long Branch.

In addition to financial assistance from the NJDA, Ms. Woolley received training through its Entrepreneurial Training Institute (ETI) in 1999. ETI helps entrepreneurs get started by providing the basics of operating a business through a series of classes.

"I enrolled in ETI because I wanted to start my own business, but I didn't have a business background," explained Ms.

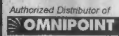
Woolley. "The most valuable tool I learned from the ETI program was how to develop my business plan. This program was essential in defining my business goals and objectives."

"NJDA was established to help small business, particularly those owned or managed by minorities and women," said Greg Williams, Chairman of the NJDA. "We provide both financial and technical assistance to make the road to business success an easier one."

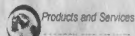
According to Williams, NJDA is committed to helping small business entrepreneurs throughout New Jersey. "As New Jersey's economy continues to prosper, our primary goal is to improve the viability of our small businesses. We offer training, counseling and financial assistance for the benefit of new and future businesses throughout the Garden State," he added.

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Prayer Corner



When David arrived in Ziklag, the enemy has invaded and burned the city, and his family members had been taken as captives. David and the people that were with him wept until they didn't have any strength left to cry. So, David was greatly distressed. And, to add to his stress, the people came so mad with David (as if he was to blame) that they talked about stoning him to death. Well, David got rid of the stress quickly, closed a deaf ear to the people around him, and encouraged himself in the Lord. He sought the Lord's advice and recovered all. So, when "stress" tries to get a grip on us and all odds are against us, it's important to shake it off. We must encourage ourselves in the Lord and seek HIM for direction. We can have a great day today if we "shake it off" (everything that's disturbing—tell the devil, "So be it" — we'll feel better). "My flesh and my heart faileth, but God is the strength of my heart!" God is in control, no matter how it looks. He's still the boss! Fear thou not, for I AM with thee, saith the Lord. Believe it!

Jefferson and Hemings: A Love Story?

continued from A1

actually made some ridiculous death bed promise to his wife that he would never marry again. In doing so, especially in those times, he had put himself at risk of celibacy — neither a good idea nor an easy promise to keep for a man in his prime. Another easy excuse to justify his using Sally for his sexual pleasures.

But there was allegedly an English noblewoman, who was fairly panting in the wings ready to doff her husband at the slightest indication, practically begging him to her bed. However, the scandal of such a situation would have been political and diplomatic sui-

cide. So in a scene that makes it look like it was totally Sally's idea, a 14-year-old slave girl seduces the great man. Of course, the other story, "Jefferson in Paris," which came out nearly a year earlier, was probably more the truth: the seduction/trape was Jefferson's responsibility, not Hemings'. The affair existed—definitely true. Jefferson's daughters were scandalized — also true. Sally had several children by Jefferson—true. But there is no way, even in Paris, that Hemings and Jefferson were strolling along together in a Parisian garden as a couple in love — or any of the ensuing conversations — uh uh! The

one true statement that came out of the whole story came from Sally's mother, played by Diahanna Carroll, regarding sex with white men: "I didn't have no damn choice!" None of the black women of that era had any choice whatsoever. And God help the black man who even tried to protect them from rape.

To clean it up, the sanitized version makes the victim the seducer, and the rapist the lover. Well, that's Hollywood. They've been distorting our history for decades. Why should this one be any different?

More pathetic, however, are the descendants of Sally Hem-

ings and Thomas Jefferson trying to become members of the Monticello Club, begging to visit and be buried in the Jefferson family graveyard. Jefferson never kept his promise to free Sally from slavery, and it appears that two centuries later her descendants are still enslaved. The proof of their heritage in no way should engender either pride or shame, privilege nor power — you're black no matter how much white blood you have — blue eyes and red hair notwithstanding. It's just a fact of life living as a black person in America. To the Jefferson/Hemings: Be proud of your blackness and let the rest go.

'Happy Birthday' to a blessed Centurian



Martha Jane Faulkner

By Gilda Rogers, Willis and Kitty Taylor

NEWARK — Mrs. Martha Jane Faulkner can surely give everyone a first hand lesson in Black History, since she's lived through many of those times chronicled in the black experience. On Feb. 7, the former Newark resident turned 105 years old — a God blessed event.

Indeed, this milestone called for a major celebration, and on Feb. 12, family and friends gathered at Parkway Manor Nursing Home in East Orange, where this grand dame now resides, to sing her praises and, of course, "Happy Birthday."

Born in Halifax, Virginia, in 1894, Faulkner, affectionately called "Miss Janie" or "Aunt Janie," was raised in a Christian family and attended the Sun Flower Baptist Church in Halifax. At the age of 19, she married her high school sweetheart, the late David Faulkner. In 1923, Miss Janie and David moved to Newark, where he worked as a builder and Miss Janie as a domestic engineer. The marriage lasted 59 years until the death of David. From

this union two children were born, both of whom are also deceased.

Preferring to work, Miss Janie, until the ripe age of 87, traveled back and forth to her job by bus until she retired. When asked why she worked for so long she said, "I didn't want to just sit around holding my hands. I wanted to work."

She has been a member of Shiloh Baptist Church in Newark, where she actively worshipped until it became difficult for her to attend regular service. However, Miss Janie will try to attend special services or programs when possible.

Miss Janie is still keen in thought and a wiz when it comes to remembering details from her past. She can name the capital city of every state in the United States without blinking an eye, and is a card playing enthusiast. Her favorite game is Pinochle and she boasts about how hard it is to beat her at her beloved game. With an infectious sense of humor, Miss Janie will have you rolling in the aisles. She credits her longevity to her religious upbringing.

"I never drank or smoked because God gave me a good life," said Miss Janie. And this is what she wishes for today's young people. "They should go to school, get an education so they can get good jobs and live good."



Martha Jane Faulkner

Deacon Joshua Webb

March 5 - 11, 2000

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1. Who was the first African American to serve on the Supreme Court?
2. Who was the first African American to win the PGA Masters Tournament?
3. Which African American musician was considered to be the "Ambassador to the World"?
4. Which African American holds the NFL record for career rushes?
5. Which African American was considered "The Greatest" and dominated boxing for 20 years?
6. Who was the first African American woman in space?
7. Who was the first African American to become a presidential candidate?
8. Which African American was the first Black senator since Reconstruction?
9. Who was the first pharaoh of Egypt?
10. Outside of the U.S., which two countries provided safe havens on the "Underground Railroad"?

No purchase necessary. Entries must be received by March 19, 2000. Visit participating McDonald's® for rules, answers and details.

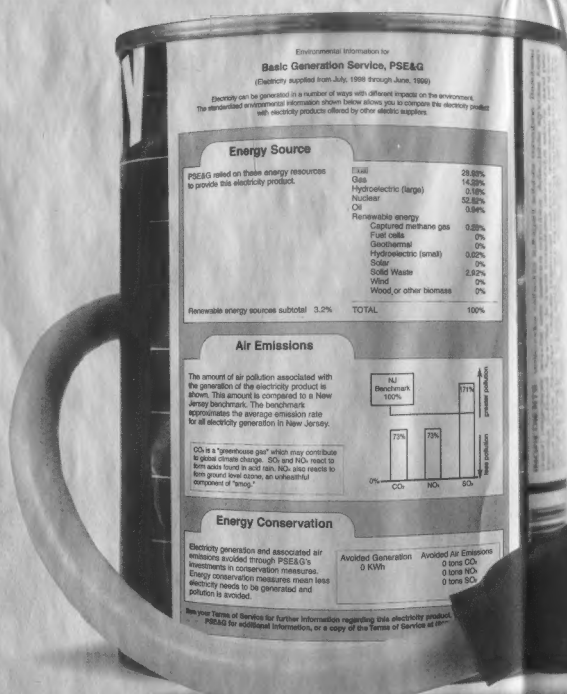
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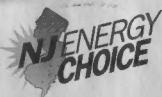


We've all seen the nutrition labels that food manufacturers must provide on their canned goods. Now, as part of NJ Energy Choice, all licensed electric suppliers must provide a similar statement explaining the environmental characteristics of the electricity they sell. This Environmental Label will include information about the supplier's energy sources, the types and amounts of air emissions it generates, and the efforts the company makes to increase energy conservation. Why this new label? It's all part of helping you compare electricity offers

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CityLife

Verse 4 Verse

February 23-February 29, 2000

City News B1



A trumpeter helps set the mood with some mellow tones.



E. Patric



MotherCheek



Tray-Cee



Fluwe and Soul Alchemy



Juba Dowdell



Ras Baraka (left) and Juba Dowdell



Kenny Kill



Tora

12-A Linden Street
Newark, NJ

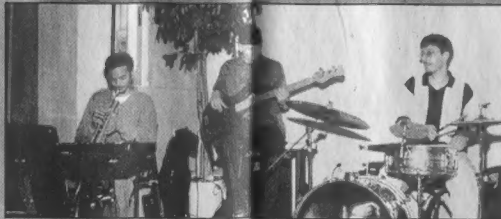
By Glida Rogers
Staff Writer

It goes and comes. It's hot it's not. The ebb and flow of poetry. The poet, an artist, truth practitioner, hopeless romantic and wordsayer of dreams, the directors of reality - it's hip again - poetry. And if you appreciate the word or have some bomb words to drop - every Thursday night at Verse 4 Verse Poetry Café at 12-A Linden Street, in Newark, is where you ought to be.

Warning: There are no wannabes up in here so do come correct, and have your \$5 cover charge. As if starving for something new to do, the college set to the mature-in-age are flocking to the newly opened hot spot for a dose of reality. Or maybe it's a flirtatious rendezvous with what love should be, seemingly, as only a poet can express it freely, that they're seeking. Whatever the case - it's all good.

Your hosts for the evening: Juba Dowdell and Ras Baraka, who kick-it themselves, while making everyone feel right at home. Verse 4 Verse, which originally started out as a fundraising concert, when Baraka was running for a seat on the City Council in 1997, has evolved into an infectious happening. Minus the congeniality of the hosts, the place, from the door, is inviting, cozy, and warm. But the cbs beats up to 100 plus degrees, but, when featured poets take front and center stage.

"Toilet bowl you understand me. People make me sick," says poet Kenny Kill, as he simulates quite realistically, with the use of a chair how the



photos by Pablo Tinio

toilet bowl when sick can be man's best friend. "Don't ever leave me toilet bowl. I swear I'll never get mad at them again. They just make me sick."

With the accompaniment of gifted musicians, whom go by the name of "Soul Alchemy," a poet like Fluwe takes poetry to another stratosphere. This sister, who hails from Jamaica, Queens, represented with finesse and a certain regal aura reserved for stars.

"I am time passing," says Fluwe with an alluring lift reminiscent to that of Eartha Kitt's. "My writing is my heart's work... transforming poetry into motion. I am seeing life in verses... I say my poetry to myself to remember to forget to create... My existence begs transcendence. I freely tell my mind to freely tell the truth."

Another featured poet from Brooklyn, New York - E. Patric's use of metaphors to describe love making was, well, let's say - he drove his point home.

And just when you think it can no better, the open mic segment proves to be an entertaining and as thought provoking as the featured artists. MotherCheek hit the crowd hard with a soliloquy committed to memory that at times she poignantly expressed through song.

Tray-Cee, who kicked a poem about the wheeled cast on the television show "90210" got the crowd involved "OHMGOD" And Tora performed. No, he PERFORMED a piece about "gravity," which was filled with all kinds of vitality and energy.

Once revved up, Verse 4 Verse rolls along at warp speed, proving the awesome power that exists in the word - when spoken - from the heart.

A jazzy New-ark state of mind!

By Gilda Rogers
Staff Writer

Red Bank resident, Ralph Gatta, 69, remembers traveling to Newark regularly in the late '50s to Hank's Evergreen Club, where he would catch the hottest acts around in jazz. It was there that he vividly recalls seeing The Billy Taylor Trio, which featured Dinah Washington, and after their set was over, Gatta romances in the thought of buying "The Queen" a drink. Whew! Those were the days.

And if the Lincoln Park Coast Cultural District, Inc., compiled of an Outreach Committee and Executive Committee have anything to do with it, more memories like those of Gatta's will become the reality in Newark again.

The aim of the LPCCD is to revitalize an area of Newark around four strategic sites — Symphony Hall, South Park Presbyterian Church, the Bridge Club and the Kruger-Scott Mansion. Overall, LPCCD's plan is to create an "artsy" cultural district to include, shops, artist-in-residence housing, cafes, and jazz clubs.

According to Amiri Baraka, vice chairman of the LPCCD Outreach Committee, the organization is a grass roots representation of residents, businesses, cultural institutions and artists whose goal, working in conjunction with the Regional Plan Association, is to "revive the historic arts district at the southern end of Broad Street to complement the development which has begun on the northern end."

To unveil what's still yet to come, LPCCD will be alive with music and dance on Feb. 25, at a community party hosted by the district's organizational leadership. Featuring entertainment showcas-



Newark Symphony Hall

ing the City's broad cultural diversity, the party will be held in the Hall's Terrace Ballroom from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. and is open to the public for \$15.

One of the highlights of the agenda planned for the evening, Baraka said, is a presentation concept called the "NewArk Store," a proposed marketing effort to sell and promote merchandise and memorabilia of and by Newark individuals and companies. The marketing effort will be conducted through a series of kiosks strategically located in heavily-trafficked "people centers" throughout the city.

"It's a fabulous project," said Juba Dowdell, who is a member of the Outreach Committee. "Number one, I am an artist, writer and teacher. I love Newark — this is, multicultural to the max."

According to Jerome Enis, who is the organization's public relations consultant, the plans are "coming along great." A conference slated for the second weekend in April will bring architects, and community leaders together to revisit holistically the work-in-progress.

In the meantime, students from the New Jersey Institute of Technology School of Design are working with the committees to move the project forward.

"There are plans to put a relief sculpture on the side of the Star Ledger building, which was once the site of 'Club Washington,' said Professor Tony Schuman of NJIT. The students are designing markers for these sites to remember places gone by."

A collage of photographs and model designs by students — from a trumpet shaped street light to an oversized door featuring the likes of Newark's very own Sarah Vaughan — were on display in the Weston Lecture Hall of NJIT on Feb. 10, when Baraka addressed the crowd gathered there about the LPCCD's vision.

"Baraka's point is that there is a lot of musicians coming out of Newark who play other places and record in other studios outside of Newark," said Schuman. "The project is of a cultural interest."

In celebrating "the rebirth of Newark's Arts District" LPCCD has a diverse line up of entertainment featuring Hip-Hop (dead prez) to Salsa (Salsa De Conjunto Pastrano), and the Newark Boys Chorus.

"The Lincoln Park Coast Cultural District, Inc., is committed to harnessing the creativity and communal aspirations of the residents of Newark to recreate what was, at one time, a nationally-recognized bastion of music and art," said Baraka.

For additional information about the event, telephone (973) 623-1153.

Photos by Herb Glenn

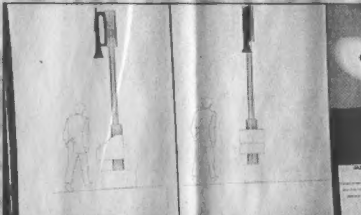


Visionary Amiri Baraka, vice chairman of the Lincoln Park Coast Cultural District, Inc. Outreach Committee.

photo courtesy of Channel 13



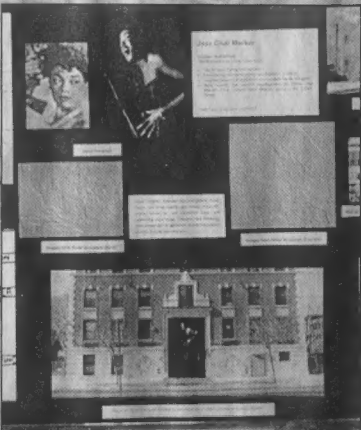
The Integrity House is one of the sites included in the Lincoln Park Coastal Cultural District plans.



A student drawing of a proposed marker that would identify historical landmarks that were once a part of the early jazz scene in Newark.



L-R NJIT design students Anna Peterson and Jim Whelan pose before "The Newark Music Project."



Sarah Vaughan marker

Heartbeat
Calendar

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23

NEWS BRUNSWICK - "NICU PARENT SUPPORT GROUP" - For the parents of children in the neonatal intensive care unit will meet in the teaching room of the Intensive Care Nursery at Saint Peter's University Hospital, 254 Easton Avenue. For more information, call Gary Cooper at (732) 745-6528.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25

NEWARK - American Heart Association Citizen CPR 2000 - Learn CPR and the Heimlich maneuver. It can help you save a life. For more information, call (732) 621-9510 ask for Jennifer Flores.

NEW BRUNSWICK - New Brunswick Senior Center on Huntington St. is doing blood pressure screenings at 10 a.m. For more information, call Gary Cooper at St. Peter's University Hospital (732) 745-6528.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26

SADDLEBROOK - The Alpha Clinic at the Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation is offering a support group to provide individuals with a comprehensive treatment program for the future. The program lasts from 7-9 p.m. For more information, call Kayvan Freeman at (973) 243-6850.

NEWARK - UMDNJ-University Hospital and the American Heart Association will sponsor CPR Training. The course will be held at UMDNJ, 156 Bergen Street, room F-350. The cost of the course is \$10. Call (973) 972-6554 for more information.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27

SADDLEBROOK - The Alpha Clinic at Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation is offering a support group for treatment and help with providing for the future. The program lasts from 7-9 p.m. For more information, call Kayvan Freeman at (973) 243-6850.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1

NEWARK - "Mini Medical School 2000" will take place at the Newark campus of UMDNJ. The program is open to the public and costs \$100. For more information, call (973) 972-7072.

SUMMIT - The overlook hospital invites you to attend "Asthma and your Child" at Overlook Hospital, 99 Boulevard Avenue, Summit, New Jersey. The program will run from 7 to 9 p.m. Call 1-800-244-6590 for more information.

MONDAY, MARCH 6

WESTFIELD - Care-Oliver Support Group Meeting - A support group for those coping by solely or directly a loved one, meeting at 8 p.m. in the parish center of St. Helen's Church on Lambert's Mill Road. For more information, call Marilyn at (908) 233-4757.

Horizon Blue Cross/ Shield of New Jersey introduces alternatives medicine program

NEWARK - Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey announced the introduction of an alternative medicine program, which offers significant discounts on such services as acupuncture, massage therapy, nutritional counseling, and yoga and meditation, as well as vitamins and related products.

Horizon Alternative Therapies will be part of Horizon BCBSNJ's growing value-added discount programs available to members of the company's health plans. The program is designed to help complement traditional health care.

"Alternative medicine is one of the fastest growing segments of the health industry today and many of our members have already embraced these therapies," said William J. Marino, president and chief executive officer of Horizon BCBSNJ. "We are very excited to make available our new Horizon Alternative Therapies program and encourage our members to take advantage of the wide range of services the program offers."

Horizon BCBSNJ members can access the program by making appointments directly with any alternative therapy provider in the program's extensive statewide network. To locate a provider in their area, members can call 1-877-940-0044 toll free.

Members receive a 20 percent discount off providers' regular fee for alternative therapy services and 10 percent off products distributed by providers.

For more information on the discount programs, members should contact Horizon BCBSNJ at 1-800-355-BLUE.

Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey is the state's largest health insurer. Horizon BCBSNJ has a site on the World Wide Web, which can be reached at www.horizon-bcbnj.com.

Tobacco and African Americans: Modern enslavement

Part 4 of 4

TOBACCO AND AFRICAN AMERICANS: THEN AND NOW

A four-part series created by Young Communications Group on behalf of the African American Tobacco Education Network. This article is the final in a four-part series of articles chronicling the history of African Americans and tobacco.

Tobacco use has caused widespread devastation among African Americans, burdening the community with a staggering array of illnesses.

Each year, approximately 45,000 African Americans die from heart disease, cancer and stroke, all preventable smoking-related diseases. Once a primary economic catalyst for black enslavement, the tobacco industry has emerged as a modern-day oppressor, hobbling African American communities with the physical, emotional and economic consequences of nicotine addiction.

Killer Smoke

In "The Inevitable Drug" (1996), author William Everett Bailey states that tobacco smoke contains some 100,000 complex chemicals. The most significant are nicotine (an addictive botanical insecticide), tar and about 2,000 deadly chemicals and gases. "Smokers are a walking toxic dump," he says.

Tobacco Scourge

Smoking is most prevalent among African American, American Indians and Alaska Natives. According to latest government statistics, nationally 88.5 percent of African Americans smoke, but California statistics are somewhat lower, as they are for all ethnic groups and ages, possibly due to aggressive tobacco control efforts.

Smoking affects blacks differently than other racial groups, but scientists are just beginning to understand why. The results



of a study cited in the July 8, 1998, issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) reveal that African Americans seem to absorb significantly more nicotine per cigarette than white smokers.

According to the JAMA article, the study indicated blacks who smoked had significantly higher levels of cotinine, a nicotine metabolite, in their blood stream. This suggests a faster rate of nicotine absorption.

The grim reality African Americans have the greatest incidences of heart disease and cancer, the leading causes of death among smokers. And, according to government estimates, blacks are 30 percent more likely than whites to develop lung cancer and to suffer from cancers of the larynx, mouth and esophagus.

Secondhand smoke has been named a major contributor to recent increases in asthma in the nation's black community.

According to a recent University of California, San Diego, report, nearly 90 percent of Hispanic, Asian and white children in California were protected from secondhand smoke by family-imposed smoking restrictions. In African American homes, only 75 percent were protected by such restrictions.

Moreover, the California Environmental Protection Agency also names secondhand smoke as a factor in cancer, heart disease, sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), low birth weight, childhood middle ear infections, pneumonia, bronchitis and emphysema.

Bought Silence

About the same time the U.S. Surgeon General's office released its 1964 landmark report warning that cigarette smoking causes lung cancer and the diseases, the tobacco industry began to court the black com-

munity in earnest, and to recruit blacks for prominent positions in their factories and corporate offices.

By the 1970s, tobacco companies were supporting African American festivals, concerts and art exhibits. They also advertised routinely in the black press and contributed heavily to African American social service, political and civil rights organizations, linking themselves to worthwhile causes.

But is anything worthwhile about smoking? The habit costs the American health care system an estimated \$100 billion annually in hospital stays, doctors' fees, prescription drugs, perinatal care for mothers who smoke and care for their low birth weight babies. The economic toll on African American communities is as crippling as its physical and emotional toll.

A Community Responds

Within the past 10 years, African American health educators and advocates have mobilized with community based organizations such as Ebony Counseling Center in Bakersfield, BARTER in Richmond, the Sacramento Urban League and others, educating their communities about smoking's detrimental effects.

In 1990, the state of California brought together concerned organizations and individuals to form the African American Tobacco Education Network (AATEN).

AATEN sponsors statewide activities, and events that fight tobacco addiction, including conferences, workshops and tobacco education seminars. "Nicotine is an addictive drug, like cocaine or heroin," says Dr. Cleo Malone, AATEN's history.

Last summer and head of The Palace Theatre in San Diego a substantial anti-tobacco prevention and recovery program.

Los Angeles' Community Coalition for Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment, in 1994, sent teens to South Central and West Los Angeles neighborhoods to compare the number of tobacco and liquor billboards in each community. When they found more tobacco and liquor advertisements in South Central, the organization asked by their councilwoman, persuaded billboard owners to remove ads from areas near schools and youth organizations.

In 1995, California tobacco control community groups stepped the sale of a new cigarette targeted to African Americans - X cigarettes. The anti-X campaign was patterned after the Uptown Coalition's successful thwarting of Uptown, menthol brand that was set to launch in 1990. The Uptown campaign angered African Americans and sparked a ground swell of community backlash forcing the R.J. Revolds Tobacco Co. to remove Uptown from the market.

Then, in 1995, Star Tobacco Corporation was set to launch X cigarettes, an inexpensive menthol brand packaged in red and black and green with a large "X" on the

Mandela to be honored
for lifetime of
service by MESAB

NEW YORK - Former South African President Nelson Mandela will attend a ceremony on February 28th at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel, honoring him with the MESAB Service Award for his commitment to ending racial disparity in his country's education and health systems. Bill Cosby will emcee the event and financier George Soros will serve as the chairman.

MESAB is a nonprofit organization based in New Brunswick, NJ, which raises money for black-South African's seeking careers in health care and is led by Morehouse School of Medicine president and former Secretary of Health and Human Services, Dr. Louis W. Sullivan.

The event will take place in New York City for the first time,

serendipitously, February 2000 marks both the 10th anniversary of Mr. Mandela's release from prison and MESAB's 15th anniversary.

"When you think about individuals who have committed their lives to ending discrimination and improving the quality of life for all people, Nelson Mandela is truly at the top of the list," said Soros. "MESAB is humbled that Mr. Mandela will appear in person to receive the organization's highest honor."

MESAB will honor Mr. Mandela in recognition of his work to improve educational standards and health care for South African blacks, who comprise 90 percent of the country's population but were often left behind during the Apartheid years.

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Black Infants - Better Survival

1-888-414-IBS

www.state.nj.us/health/bibs

A message from The New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services
Christine Todd Whitman, Governor



Wednesday

February 23 — February 29, 2000

D'Angelo: The second coming of soul

By Gilda Rogers
Staff Writer

In all honesty and no offense to the new genre of closed music artists, but D'Angelo reigns supreme over all that is original, authentic, and new. His long-awaited release

"Voodoo" is a blend of gut wrenching soul, erotic jazz, meets hip hop. For us old schoolers that spells relief. We no longer have to belittle our taste in music for the sake of buying a new CD. The cover is a year-old

photo of step-daughter to the counter of their favorite record store and say "I'd like that new release by D'Angelo," and not feel like sell-outs.

It's obvious from cuts like "Chicken Grease,"

"On the Run," "Mr. C," "The Root," hell, the whole CD, the man has been schooled in unadulterated funk and R&B.

His 24-year-old prodigy attended Al Green's inflection classes, graduated from Marvin Gaye's

school of crooning, took a couple of Sly Stone courses and under the watchful eye of the Artist,

has emerged at the top of his class. Standing out in front of the line Benets and Chico

Method Man and Redman.

FYI D'Angelo will grace the stage of Prudential Hall at NJPAC on April 24. Get your tickets now because it's sure to be a sell-out!

DeBarges. D'Angelo is a force like no other. Note, this is an album that will be played for a very long time. A future collector's item.

With every grunt, "huh," "wheh," and howl, to real live keyboards and horns, a mean bass and percussion accompanied by off-kilter background vocals fluid to his sound.

SHUT-UP - this boy is good - the second coming of something.

SHUT-UP this boy is good - the second coming of something.

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D'Angelo

Photo by Thierry LeGoues

MUSIC NOTES

Tony! Toni! Tone's Dwayne Wiggins to release debut solo project

Dwayne Wiggins, member of the former band Tony! Toni! Tone's is getting to release his first solo album, "Eyes Don't Lie," in late March with guest appearances by Najee, The Roots, and Santana.

Wiggins, who was known along with the group for creating hits like "Feels Good," "Anniversary," and "It Never Rains in Southern California," is currently performing in the Motown College Tour with R&B group Profile, Grenique, and rapper Cap One.



Manah Carey

Mariah Carey gets ready for first tour in seven years

Mariah Carey is preparing national tour to promote her latest album, "Rainbow," which is set to start in Los Angeles on

March 16.

The tour, her first since her 1993 "Music Box" tour, will most likely feature the guests who are available or in the locality. Carey said in an MTV interview.

Some of the dates have not been confirmed, but at press time those are the dates being published.

3/16 - Los Angeles, CA; 3/18 - Las Vegas, NV; 3/22 - Dallas, TX; 3/25 - Chicago, IL; 3/29 - Miami, FL; 4/1 - Atlanta, GA; 4/4 Boston, MA; 4/7 - Toronto, ON; 4/11 - New York, NY.



Mary J. Blige

Mary J. Blige, Lil' Kim to model for AIDS charity

R&B singer Mary J. Blige and rapper Lil' Kim were recently signed to M-A-C Cosmetics to promote its new lipstick line, Viva Glam III.

The company, which has featured artists like RuPaul and k.d. lang, will donate all the profits to its own AIDS charity.

Fame is in the stars for this Leo

By Deepthi Hajela

NEW YORK (AP) — Say what you want about astrology but sometimes that stuff is just on point. Do I hear the skeptics calling for an example? OK, here's one: Kelsi. The rising 20-year-old R&B star is a Leo. Boy, is she ever.

Everything about Kelsi (pronounced Ka LEASE) is leonine. She has a mane of golden hair (with a dyed-green cast at the moment), tawny skin and a personality that is a textbook of Leo's character traits.

Those born under the lion sign (July 23-Aug. 22) are creative (she's a musician), extroverted (getting her to talk in an interview is NO problem) and strong-willed (just ask her friends).

I am the perfect description of a Leo, said Kelsi in an interview.

Need more proof?

"Caught on There," the first single from her debut "Kaleidoscope" album, is a scorned woman's response to her cheating lover. The chorus has Kelsi shouting, "I hate you so much right now! AAAAAHHHH!"

How's that for a roar? It's definitely an attention-getter, as her hype Williams-directed video.

After she graduated from high school, Kelsi was introduced to Chad Hugo and Pharrell Williams, a production duo known as the Neptunes, who have worked with Mase, O'Jays, Busta Rhymes and SWV.

In the Neptunes, Kelsi found people who share her understanding of music. The result is an album that combines the sounds of the past and future, the jazz and blues of her childhood with the percussive-heavy beats that are popular in today's urban music.

"We just clicked," she said. "There're on another page, and I'm always trying to get to another page."

Some members of the media have commented on the anger in her first song, calling her the R&B Alanis Morissette. But Kelsi has no fear of being categorized as an "angry young woman."

"I think it's natural for people to put you in a box," she said. "People are weak and that's the



Photo by Jonathan Masland

Kelsi

only way they can comprehend something. If they are able to understand me and say, 'Oh, she reminds me of whatever that to me is very weak. But I understand why people feel the need to compare you'.

Kelsi's name is a combination of the first names of her parents, Kenneth and Evelyn Rogers. Her mother is a Puerto Rican-Chinese designer. Her father, a black musician and minister died two days before she signed a deal with Virgin Records last year.

She credits her father with instilling a love of music in her. "My understanding of music comes from him. My taste in music comes from him."

Her mother gave her the drive to succeed.

"Mom, she was the one who was hustling me to lessons," Kelsi said.

Kelsi was born in the New York neighborhood of Harlem.

She sang in the choir, played the violin and attended Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts in Manhattan, the school that wins the basis for the 1990 movie "Fame."

Growing up wasn't easy. During her teen years, she had a lot of conflicts with her parents and the people around her as she struggled to figure out who she was and what she wanted.

"The teen-age years for me were really confusing and I did like being confused," she said. "Until I turned 18, I was mad at the world. I was mad I didn't get it."

Now the singer, who is on the verge of stardom, can look back and marvel at how far she's come.

"I would never go back to being a teen-ager," she said. "I am so thankful to be an adult. It's not even funny."

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Business/Evening Attire

Billboard

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24

RED BANK - Metropolitan Entertainment Group presents Monty Python who will be performing at the Count Basie Theatre at 8 p.m. for more information, call (212) 965-4600.

NEWARK - The Newark Public Library is showing in theater "Black America On Stage." Show will begin at 8 p.m. For more information call 733-7735.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25

ENGLEWOOD - Nancy Wilson and Vanessa Rubin will be performing for the Arfat Curtes Series, at the John Herma Center for the Arts. Show starts at 8 p.m. call (201)567-7357 for additional information.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1

NEWARK - New Jersey Historical Society is hosting a presentation on "Women's History" at 12:15-1 p.m. For more information call 596-8900.

FRIDAY, MARCH 3

TRENTON - Vocalist Monica Mancini joins David Comandmay and the NJSO in "A Tribute to Henry Mancini" takes place at 8:00 p.m. at the War Memorial. For more information, call (609) 624-3713.

SATURDAY, MARCH 4

NEWARK - Vocalist Monica Mancini joins David Comandmay and the NJSO in "A Tribute to Henry Mancini" takes place at 8:00 p.m. at the NJPAC. For more information, call (973) 624-3713.

NEWARK - "Yoda Week at the Theatre" held at The Newark Public Library. Theatre starts at 2 p.m. For more information call 733-7735.

SUMMIT - Summit Choral presents Meet the Composer, a Conversation between John Kaefer and Garyth Nair. The concert begins at 8 p.m. Admission is FREE. Call (973) 762-0486.

SATURDAY, MARCH 11

BRIDGEWATER - Biz Beidenbecke Bridgeth Bash honoring jazz legend, also appearing comatist Jon-Erik Kell, so leading an all star band. For more information call (908) 526-8900 ext. 7215.

FRIDAY, APRIL 7

TRENTON - David Comandmay and the NJSO will welcome legendary film, television and Broadway star Debbie Reynolds who will perform many popular standards 8:00 p.m. at the War Memorial. For more information, call (609) 624-3713.

Wesley Snipes creates "hip hop fiction" with new publishing company



NEW YORK

Just like jazz and R&B soul, hip hop has shown that it is not just a genre of music, but an ever developing culture.

The latest example of this is embodied by a new publishing company, [S] Affiliated, whose purpose is to add to the growing number of books that identify with the feel of the hip hop culture and generation.

Founded by actor Wesley Snipes and publisher/president Marc Gerald, [S] Affiliated follows a path blessed writers from the seventies, like Donald Goines, producing tales from the streets with an interesting appeal to fans of hip hop music.

Gerald brings to the company his experience in publishing, as the founder/editor of Old School Books, which was an awarding winning imprint of W.W. Norton, which has pushed many exploitation novels from the 60s and 70s. He is currently co-producing "Daddy Cool" with Beech Hill Entertainment for Samuel L. Jackson, "Thirty Under 30" for Fox 2000, and "Welcome To The Old School" with Wesley Snipes for New Urban Entertainment.

Snipes, known for his roles in "Blade," "White Men Can't Jump," and "Rising Sun," and "Jungle Fever," has a first-look deal with Universal-based Amen

Ra Pictures. Under this company he has produced "The Big Hit," starring Mark Wahlberg, and "Blade," which he started in, which grossed \$180 million. The company also produced the acclaimed film, "Down on the Delta," directed by Maya Angelou.

Beginning in April, the company will launch a six-book series accompanied by exclusive mix CDs from one of hip-hop's premier label, Def Jam.

"When we were presented with the opportunity to work with [S] Affiliated, it was a blessing," said Def Jam president Kevin Liles. "It's doing something that's never been done before. It's not just music. It's not just books. It's culture!"

The first book will be "Street Sweeper" by Ronin Ro. The novel is about a ruthless hit man named Jerome Parker who turns his life around after he accidentally kills an innocent girl. Ro is the author of the acclaimed book "Have Gun Will Travel" (Doubleday), the highly acclaimed history of Death Row Records.

Other novels that will follow are Antoine Black's "The International"; "XXL Money" by Roland Jefferson; Gary Phillip's "The Perpetrator"; "Anything That Mover" by Joel Rose; and "Platinum" by Michael Gonzalez.

John Hope Franklin wins book award

GETTYSBURG, Pa. (AP) — The 10th annual Lincoln Prize for the best work in Civil War history will be shared by the authors of two books — one on runaway slaves and the other an intellectual biography of Abraham Lincoln.

Duke University professor John Hope Franklin and Loren Schweninger of the University of North Carolina, co-authors of "Runaway Slave Rebels in the Plantation," and Allen C. Gutzko of Eastern College, author of "Abraham Lincoln: Redeemer-President," will share the award. Each book will earn a \$50,000 prize.

The award, which will be formally presented April 18, is administered by Gettysburg College. Past winners have included documentary filmmaker Ken Burns.



John Hope Franklin

Steely Dan to appear on Ch. 13



Pop/jazz legends Steely Dan, Walter Becker, and Donald Fagen (above), are back together again for an "In THE SPOTLIGHT" special, taped exclusively for public television. The occasion marks the release of "Two Against Nature," their first new studio album in 20 years. Presented by Thirteen/WNET New York, "Steely Dan: An IN THE SPOTLIGHT" special premieres Wednesday, March 1 at 10 p.m. (EST) on PBS.

SUNDAY

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CLASSIFIED/LEGAL

LEGAL NOTICE

NEW BRUNSWICK HOUSING AUTHORITY

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that sealed bids will be received by the Housing Authority of the City of New Brunswick at the Rental Office of the Authority located at 15 Van Dyke Avenue, New Brunswick, New Jersey, on Tuesday, March 21, 2000, at 11:00 a.m. prevailing time. All bids shall be delivered by hand, and in triplicate. All bids will be opened publicly and read aloud at that time. The Authority reserves the right to waive any informality in bids and to reject any and all bids if it is in the best interest of the Authority to do so.

Sealed Bids for:

Plumbing Repairs and Service for all Housing Authority Properties
Rutoken Village (N.J. 22-1)
Schwartz Homes (N.J. 22-2)
New Brunswick Homes (N.J. 22-3)
Hoffman Pavilion (N.J. 22-4)

The Contract Value is not to exceed \$60,000.00 (sixty thousand dollars) in any calendar year. All bids and security must be enclosed in a properly sealed envelope bearing on the outside the name of the bidder and the title of the bid contained therein.

A pre-bid conference will be held in the Community Room at 18 Van Dyke Avenue, New Brunswick, N.J., on Friday, March 10, 2000 at 11:00 a.m. prevailing time.

The Contract Documents are on file and may be examined at the Van Dyke Avenue office of the Authority. Copies of the Contract Documents may also be obtained at said office upon payment by check or bank draft of the amount of \$50.00 payable to the Housing Authority of the City of New Brunswick and \$25.00 Payment for Documents is non-refundable. Documents will not be mailed.

Bidders shall have a minimum fee of \$5 (five) expenses of successful completion of similar work as this project requires.

Bidders must be authorized to do business in New Jersey. Any Bidder which is a corporation not chartered under the laws of the State of New Jersey must submit an affidavit certifying that said corporation is authorized to do business in the State of N.J.

Bidders are required to comply with the requirements of Public Law 1975, c. 127 which pertains to "Non-Discrimination" and "Affirmative Action", and Public Law 1977, c. 33 which requires a Statement of Corporate Ownership.

Kevin Quince
Executive Director, N.B.H.A.

\$125.51

AGENCY PLAN

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

The New Brunswick Housing and Redevelopment Authority, (the "NBHA") is requesting proposals from qualified firms or individuals to prepare an Agency Plan as required by section 511 of the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998 and HUD's implementing regulations at 24 CFR 903.

Further information about the NBHA, the scope of service, the proposal evaluation criteria and the proposed contract can be obtained from the NBHA at 18 Van Dyke Avenue, New Brunswick, New Jersey, 08901 or by calling (732) 745-5150. Ask for the Instructions to Proposer-Agency Plan. Proposals submitted without due regard to the Instructions to Proposer will not be considered.

Proposals are due at the above address in an original and three copies no later than 3:00 p.m. on March 8, 2000. Envelopes containing the proposals should be clearly marked "RFP-Agency Plan".

Kevin Quince
Executive Director

\$52.71

POSTERS TO ADVERTISE

CLASSIFIEDS

POLICE OFFICER EXAMINATION

Applications are now being accepted for the Year 2000 New Jersey Department of Personnel Examination for entry level Law Enforcement Tests, including Recruitment Police Officer.

Applications can be picked up until February 25, 2000 at the Clark Police Department, 24 hours a day, at the New Jersey Department of Personnel, 24 hours a day, at the Office in Town Hall, 430 Westfield Avenue, and at the Clark Police Library, 200 Westfield Avenue, during normal business hours.

The last day for filing applications is February 25th. The test will be administered between May and June. Applicants must be a minimum of 18 years of age at the time of filing. Clark Township is an equal opportunity employer.

INVESTMENT COUNSELORS

Summit Bank Investment Counselors

Summit Bank is currently seeking Investment Counselors for our Danville, Bloomfield, and Hillsborough areas. The successful individuals will sell investment products, possess strong knowledge of financial products and have the desire to prospect for sales while developing strong customer base and relationships.

The ideal candidate will have demonstrated successful sales experience working on a commission basis. Series 7, 9 and the Insurance License are required.

Qualified candidates should forward resumes to Summit Bank, Human Resources, Dept. MHC0, 1005 Route 202 West, 2nd Floor, Bridgewater, NJ 08807. Fax: (908) 230-1488. E-mail: mtul@summitbank.com. Only those candidates who best meet the requirements will be considered for an interview. For more information, please visit our website at www.summitbank.com. Summit Bank is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

SUMMIT BANK
ADVERTISE

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL/ QUOTATION

Housing Authority of the Township of Woodbridge Licensed or Duty Authorized Insurance Companies

Notice is hereby given that sealed proposals will be received by the Housing Authority of the Township of Woodbridge for the following insurance policies for the policy period of 4/1/00 through 4/1/01.

Specifications may be obtained at the Administration Office located at 20 Burns Lane, Woodbridge, New Jersey, 07095 on weekdays between 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM for a \$15 non-refundable fee, payable by check or money order only.

Proposals shall be accepted until 11 AM on February 28, 2000, and must be submitted in an envelope bearing the name and address of the proposer, clearly marked "Insurance Proposal", and addressed to Ms. Donna F. Bringham, Executive Director, 20 Burns Lane, Woodbridge, New Jersey, 07095.

The services to be provided are required as professional services. As such, not only price but the ability, skill of the proposer's organization, primarily to the Housing Authority and other similar facilities will be utilized in awarding the contracts involved herein.

Outlets of Insurance companies to be used will also be subject to rating in B+. A Best rating of A+ or better, but a rating of B+ will be considered. Proposals will be received from any agent, broker or insurance company licensed and authorized to do business in the State of New Jersey and having fully staffed claims office within the State of New Jersey.

The Housing Authority of the Township of Woodbridge reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, or any part thereof, for any cause whatsoever. No proposal shall be deemed accepted or a contract award until a decision of a resolution is filed with the Board of Commissioners of the Housing Authority. Proposed policy is subject to pre-claim cancellation until approved by the Administration of Housing and Urban Development.

Donna F. Bringham
Executive Director

\$89.21

NEW JERSEY HIGHWAY AUTHORITY GARDEN STATE PARKWAY WOODBRIIDGE, NEW JERSEY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT Sealed Bids will be received by the New Jersey Highway Authority for

A WOMAN OWNED BUSINESS SET ASIDE PROCUREMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

MARCH 8, 2000 AT 3:00 PM

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT Sealed Bids will be received by the New Jersey Highway Authority from vendors qualifying as New Jersey Woman-Owned Small Business pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 1983, Chapter 482, N.J.S.A. 17:26A-300, 52.25, 52.25-4 and 52.25-17, 52.25-17-4, 52.25-17-5, 52.25-17-6 and 52.25-17-7, 52.25-17-8, 52.25-17-9, 52.25-17-10, 52.25-17-11, 52.25-17-12, 52.25-17-13, 52.25-17-14, 52.25-17-15, 52.25-17-16, 52.25-17-17, 52.25-17-18, 52.25-17-19, 52.25-17-20, 52.25-17-21, 52.25-17-22, 52.25-17-23, 52.25-17-24, 52.25-17-25, 52.25-17-26, 52.25-17-27, 52.25-17-28, 52.25-17-29, 52.25-17-30, 52.25-17-31, 52.25-17-32, 52.25-17-33, 52.25-17-34, 52.25-17-35, 52.25-17-36, 52.25-17-37, 52.25-17-38, 52.25-17-39, 52.25-17-40, 52.25-17-41, 52.25-17-42, 52.25-17-43, 52.25-17-44, 52.25-17-45, 52.25-17-46, 52.25-17-47, 52.25-17-48, 52.25-17-49, 52.25-17-50, 52.25-17-51, 52.25-17-52, 52.25-17-53, 52.25-17-54, 52.25-17-55, 52.25-17-56, 52.25-17-57, 52.25-17-58, 52.25-17-59, 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